UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1995/L.3/Add.1
28 February 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT
Twenty-eighth session
21 February-2 March 1995
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. V. K. SHUNGLU (India)

Annex ___

VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COMMISSION OF FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

I. Functioning of the Commission on Population and Development

(a) In the context of the role of the Economic and Social Council in overall guidance and coordination, the Commission on Population and Development should have primary responsibility for reviewing the follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, reporting through the Council to the General Assembly, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/128. It will also be necessary to keep in mind the need to develop a common framework for a coherent follow-up to United Nations summits and conferences.

(b) The Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the

International Conference on Population and Development, set up by the Secretary-General, be established on a permanent basis and be accountable through the Commission for system-wide coordination and that any other coordination mechanism be so accountable.

(c) In view of the increasing importance of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions in population activities, they should be invited to participate in the Conference monitoring and evaluation process to the maximum extent possible.

II. Proposed terms of reference

A. The Commission on Population and Development shall assist the Council by:

(a) Arranging for studies and advising the Council on:

(i) Population issues and trends, including determinants and consequences;

(ii) Integrating population and development strategies;

(iii) Population and related development policies and programmes;

(iv) Provision of population assistance, upon request, to developing countries and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition;

(v) Any other population and development questions on which either the principal or the subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice.

(b) Monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and global levels, identifying reasons for success and failure, and advising the Council thereon. Such considerations shall include:

(i) Adopting a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. That work programme, inter alia, will provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(ii) Monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action through periodic reports on population trends and policies, population programmes, and population and related development activities;

(iii) Reviewing on a regular basis the flow of financial resources and the funding mechanisms to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action;

(iv) Undertaking a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and in implementing its recommendations, and to report its findings to the Council;

(v) Maintaining and enhancing public attention and support for the implementation of the Programme of Action, through the dissemination of its monitoring, review and assessment reports in a concise and clear format;

(vi) Considering the reports of the meetings of inter-agency mechanisms established by the Secretary-General to ensure coordination, collaboration and harmonization in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(vii) Considering reports on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Programme of Action, in accordance with the arrangements adopted by the Economic and Social Council for consultation with those organizations.

(c) Providing appropriate recommendations to the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

B. Membership, composition and term of office 1/

C. Duration of meetings

The Commission on Population and Development shall meet once a year, beginning in 1996, normally for a period of five working days.

III. Secretariat support, management, inter-agency coordination and resource base

(a) The responsibility for the servicing of the Commission should be with the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. While the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis is the body with the competency to cover the monitoring and appraisal of the broad range of areas covered by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, other United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions, and agencies have the leading role in critical areas of national, regional and programmatic implementation of the Programme of Action and should be given appropriate responsibility for providing the relevant information to enable the Commission to make informed judgements about progress. In particular, it is essential that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) collaborate closely with the Population Division in this regard.

1/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/128, composition, membership and term of office will be reviewed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 1995.

(b) The Commission should continue to act as the governing body for the Population Division. A reassessment of priorities and internal organization of the Division in response to the Conference Programme of Action is necessary. Work in the Division on basic population trends, on the evolution of population policies, on understanding links between population and development and on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections will need to continue.

(c) The Population Division is in a unique position to access, analyse and evaluate comparative international information and its international staff play a crucial role in understanding global population and development issues. In doing so, the Division should continue to take maximum advantage of relevant research work being undertaken at universities, research centres and other institutions.

(d) In order to augment its own activities and better serve the Commission, the Population Division should consider the establishment of ad hoc working groups, in collaboration with relevant members of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions.

(e) The Commission should address ways of ensuring that the Population Division has adequate staff of high quality in specialist areas. A high-quality professional multidisciplinary team of policy-oriented and informed researchers is required, inter alia, for the Division's role in monitoring and appraisal of the International Conference on Population and Development. Increasing staff effectiveness in the work programme and its execution is necessary for success.

(f) The monitoring and appraisal of the implementation of the Conference Programme of Action has to be resourced at an appropriate level.

(g) All documentation should be kept concise, crisp and clear, with a focus on relevant issues. It must be available in all official languages in accordance with the rules of the United Nations and in no instance later than two weeks before the start of meetings.

IV. Work Programme of the Commission on Population and Development: proposed agenda and documentation

Items on the agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters:

   (a) Provisional agenda (E/CN.9/year/L.1);

   (b) Organization of the work of the session (E/CN.9/year/L.1).

3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994:

In the light of section II.A (b) (i) above, calling for a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme, the following thematic calendar is proposed:

1996: Reproductive rights and reproductive health, including population information, education and communication (chap. 7, including relevant aspects of chaps. 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12);

1997: International migration, with special emphasis on the linkages between migration and development, and on gender issues and the family (chap. 10, with special emphasis on relevant aspects of chaps. 4, 5 and 12);

1998: Health and mortality, with special emphasis on the linkages between health and development, and on gender and age (chap. 8, with special emphasis on relevant aspects of chaps. 4, 5, 6 and 12);

1999: Population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education (chaps. 3 and 9 and relevant aspects of chaps. 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12). In addition, in 1999, the Commission will consider the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action (all chapters - see report (8) below).

The following reports, (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7), will be prepared annually. Report (8) will be prepared quinquennially. Reports (3), (4), (5) and (6) will focus on selected themes. Reports (7) and (8) will cover all aspects of the Programme of Action. Based on experience, the status of reports (4), (5) and (6) and their relationship to report (3) will be reassessed with the aim of achieving a holistic, integrated monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

(3) World Population Monitoring. This will be an annual report on a special set of themes of the Programme of Action. Its preparation will be coordinated by the Population Division. In their in-depth consideration of the annual set of themes, each of these reports could be structured so as to give adequate attention to, inter alia, the following items: (a) issues and trends, with appropriate attention to progress to-date, cross-cutting concerns and problems of different regions and subregions, including developing countries; (b) relevant policies, plans, programmes and activities of Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, and what is known about their impact; (c) priority areas for future action; and (d) requirements for data, indicators and future research. A concise summary of the report will be made available in all the official languages.

(4) Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes. This report will review progress with respect to population programmes and related development activities. In particular, it will focus on country-level implementation of the Programme of Action. It is suggested that UNFPA coordinate the preparation of this report on an annual basis.

(5) Report of the Inter-agency Task Force for the Implementation of the Programme of Action. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/128, called upon the organs and organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies to undertake actions required to give full and effective support to the implementation of the Programme of Action (para. 10). It requested the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action and take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries (para. 22). It also requested the Council to consider recommendations to the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an appropriate inter-agency coordination, collaboration and harmonization mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action (para. 28 (c)). At the request of the Secretary-General, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme asked the Executive Director of UNFPA, who served as Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development, to convene and chair an inter-agency task force to develop a coordinated approach for the implementation of the Programme of Action. It is the view of the Commission that the Task Force's work should be expanded to include migration issues. This report would review progress and action of the Inter-Agency Task Force in ensuring system-wide collaboration in the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on the theme of the year. It will also identify any areas where collaboration has met with difficulties.

(6) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The format and modalities for the preparation of this report will be the subject of further discussions.

(7) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action. This report has been requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/128 (para. 18). The proposed report would review and analyse the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action. It would provide data on levels and trends in population assistance and would report on efforts undertaken among members of the donor community to fulfil recommendations specified in paragraph 14.11 of the Programme of Action. It would review the flow of financial resources and the funding mechanisms to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action. It would also cover the results of the efforts made to exchange information on the requirements for international assistance among members of the donor community and other consultations held. It is suggested that UNFPA coordinate the preparation of the report, taking into account the inputs of all member States and of relevant parts of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

(8) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/128, requested the

Council to consider a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action. A similar quinquennial assessment was requested by the World Population Conference, in 1974, as it has been the practice of major conferences organized by the United Nations. The Population Division has coordinated the preparation of the quinquennial report for 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1994, with the participation of all relevant units, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as selected intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

4. Programme questions:

(9) Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population, [corresponding biennium] (including special technical studies as requested by the Commission).

(10) Note by the Secretary-General on proposed programme of work for the [corresponding biennium]. Both reports, on the work accomplished during the previous biennium and on the proposed programme of work for the next biennium, refer exclusively to the activities of the Population Division and correspond to the specifications of the population programme that are contained in the corresponding medium-term plan.

5. Provisional agenda for the [next] session of the Commission:

(11) Draft provisional agenda for the [next] session of the Commission on Population and Development. At the end of each session, the Commission prepares a draft provisional agenda for its next session. The draft provisional agenda is submitted to the Council, as part of the report of the Commission. The Council, then, makes a decision on the proposed text and it is issued as the provisional agenda for the next session of the Commission.